IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (previously presented): An apparatus for assisting the placing of an order for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

a registering unit configured to register a maker group having interfaces configured to hand over intermediate results from an upper maker to a lower maker of makers of the maker group in a manufacturing flow of the semiconductor device, including:

an organizing unit configured to organize the maker group from the makers of different categories in the manufacturing flow of the semiconductor device in collaboration with one another;

a confirming unit configured to confirm the interfaces among the makers in the organized maker group; and

a recording unit configured to record the interface-confirmed maker group;

and

an introducing unit configured to introduce the maker group having the interfaces, including:

a retrieving unit configured to retrieve the maker group that satisfies specifications set for the semiconductor device.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:

said registering unit includes an inviting unit configured to invite the makers.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:

said introducing unit includes a selecting unit configured to assist the retrieved maker

group selected for placing the order for manufacturing the semiconductor device.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:

said introducing unit includes an assisting unit configured to assist to determine the

specifications.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:

said introducing unit includes a scheduling unit configured to schedule delivery dates

when the makers of the retrieved maker group hand over the intermediate results.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A computer program implemented by a computer for

assisting the placing of an order for manufacturing a semiconductor device, the computer

program comprising:

a function implemented by the computer, configured to register a maker group having

interfaces configured to hand over intermediate results from an upper maker to a lower maker

of makers of the maker group in a manufacturing flow of the semiconductor device,

including:

a function implemented by the computer, configured to organize the maker

group from the makers of different categories in the manufacturing flow of the

semiconductor device in collaboration with one another;

a function implemented by the computer, configured to confirm the interfaces

among the makers in the organized maker group; and

a function implemented by the computer, configured to record the interface-

confirmed maker group; and

a function implemented by the computer, configured to introduce the maker group

having the interfaces, including:

a function implemented by the computer, configured to retrieve the maker

group that satisfies specifications set for the semiconductor device.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The computer program as in claim 6, wherein:

said function configured to register includes a function implemented by the computer,

configured to invite the makers.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The computer program as in claim 6, wherein:

said function configured to introduce includes a function implemented by the

computer, configured to select the retrieved maker group for placing the order for

manufacturing the semiconductor device.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The computer program as in claim 6, wherein:

said function configured to introduce includes a function implemented by the

computer, configured to assist to determine the specifications.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The computer program as in claim 6, wherein:

said function configured to introduce includes a function implemented by the

computer, configured to schedule delivery dates when the makers of the retrieved maker

group hand over the intermediate results.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A data structure usable for assisting the placing of an order

for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

an area to store the names of makers; and

an area related to said area to store the names of makers, to store categories in a one-to-one relationship with the makers.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 11, further comprising:

an area related to said area to store the names of makers, to store features in a one-to-one relationship with the makers.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 12, wherein:

the feature of each maker includes the manufacturing capability and accuracy of the maker.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 12, wherein:

the feature of each maker includes the names of makers with which the maker in question desires to be interfaced and the names of makers with which the maker in question is already interfaced.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 12, wherein:

the feature of each maker includes a turnaround time needed by the maker to manufacture a semiconductor device and a price charged by the maker to manufacture the semiconductor device.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A data structure usable for assisting the placing of an order for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

an area to store categories of semiconductor device manufacture; and

an area related to said area to store categories, to store the names of makers in a maker

group that has manufactured a semiconductor device, in a one-to-one relationship with the

categories.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 16, further comprising:

an area related to said area to store the names of makers, to store manufacturing

capability indexes of each maker in a one-to-one relationship with the names of makers.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 17, wherein:

the manufacturing capability indexes of each maker include a turnaround time needed

by the maker to manufacture a semiconductor device and a price charged by the maker to

manufacture the semiconductor device.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A computer implemented method of assisting the

placing of an order for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

registering a maker group using a registering unit of a controller of a computer, said

maker group having interfaces configured to hand over intermediate results from an upper

maker to a lower maker of makers of the maker group in a manufacturing flow of the

semiconductor device, including:

organizing the maker group from the makers of different categories in the

manufacturing flow of the semiconductor device in collaboration with one another

using an organizing unit of the controller;

confirming the interfaces among the makers in the organized maker group

using a confirming unit of the controller; and

recording the interface-confirmed maker group <u>using a recording unit of the</u>

<u>controller</u>; and

introducing the maker group having the interfaces <u>using an introducing unit of the</u>

<u>controller</u>, including:

retrieving the maker group that satisfies specifications set for the

semiconductor device <u>using a retrieving unit of the controller</u>.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The computer implemented method as in claim 19,

wherein:

said registering a maker group includes inviting the makers <u>using an inviting unit of</u>

<u>the controller</u>.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The computer implemented method as in claim 19,

wherein:

said introducing maker groups includes assisting the retrieved maker group selected

for placing the order for manufacturing the semiconductor device <u>using a selecting unit of the</u>

<u>controller</u>.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The computer implemented method as in claim 19,

wherein:

said introducing maker groups includes assisting to determine the specifications <u>using</u>

<u>an assisting unit of the controller</u>.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The computer implemented method as in claim 19,

wherein:

said introducing maker groups includes scheduling delivery dates when the makers of

the retrieved maker group hand over the intermediate results <u>using a scheduling unit of the</u>

<u>controller</u>.